The Deputy Attorney General

December [redacted] 1970

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Hanlon
1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan

Director, FBI

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Reference is made to your letter of December 11, 1970, and our reply of December 16, 1970, relating to requests from Mr. Harold Weisberg for information relative to the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Weisberg's formal requests (II-III) ask for "Film and relevant reports of L. H. Oswald's literature distribution and arrest in New Orleans, 8/63, taken by Jim Doyle, John Martin, WDSU-TV and WWL-TV photographers and by an unknown person, prints of WDSU film made to show third man assisting Oswald, as further described in attached letter." In addition, Mr. Weisberg requests "All reports on, of or about and interviews with James Powell, Army Intelligence, who took a picture or pictures in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. . . I would also like to have access to any other such pictures."

The circumstances concerning the taking of pictures in New Orleans on August 9, 1963, by Jim Doyle, the 14-year-old son of J. Pat Doyle of Portland, Oregon, are set out in Commission Documents No. 6 and No. 30.

The film contained a few shots of Oswald at the time of his arrest, but it also contained personal pictures of the Doyle party. Doyle requested return of the film, and it was returned to him on March 10, 1964. This film was not furnished to the Commission because the arrest had been completely documented, the arresting officer had been interviewed, and other film was available regarding the incidents leading up to the arrest of Oswald.

NOTE: See Page 3

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It is suggested that Mr. Weisberg obtain prints of the Doyle film from Mr. J. Pat Doyle, whose last known address was 1107 S. E. 122rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Regarding the film which was exposed by John Martin, 1752 Iglehart, Apartment 4, St. Paul, Minnesota, and which Weisberg says is not in the Archives, it should be noted that the film appeared to show a group of Cubans on a street in New Orleans after Oswald's arrest on August 9, 1963. The film was viewed by the New Orleans Office of the FBI and was found to contain nothing of value to the investigation. The film was returned to Martin on January 20, 1964. No mention of Martin was made in reports to the Commission. It would appear that Weisberg should contact Martin if he desires prints of this film.

With respect to the photograph taken by James W. Powell, Special Agent, Region II, 112th INTC, Army Intelligence Corps, Dallas, Texas, he was interviewed by a Special Agent of this Bureau at Dallas, Texas, on January 3, 1964. Mr. Powell stated that on November 22, 1963, he had taken a photograph of the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. He advised that approximately thirty seconds following the shots fired at President Kennedy, he was approximately one-half block east of the intersection of Elm and Houston Streets. He then ran to the southeast corner of the intersection and, seeing some people pointing to the School Book Depository, took one photograph of the building utilizing a Minolta 35 millimeter camera. Mr. Powell turned this photograph over to his superior, Lieutenant Colonel E. E. Boyd, in the form of a Kodachrome transparency, who thereafter furnished it to the FBI at Dallas, Texas, on December 31, 1963.

The photograph depicted the corner sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository and boxes stacked in formation inside the window. The photograph was returned to Mr. Powell on January 20, 1964. Consequently, it would appear Mr. Weisberg should contact Mr. Powell if he desires prints of this film.

Mr. Weisberg has sought in the past to obtain from the National Archives prints of the professional television film prepared,

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by WDSU-TV and WWL-TV in New Orleans. Mr. Marion Johnson of the National Archives stated on December 2[illegible], 1970, that he has told Weisberg that because of the copyright laws, Weisberg should get written authorization from those television stations before the National Archives can provide him with prints.

The details of the furnishing to the FBI of duplicate copies of these films are set out, together with the pertinent interviews, variously, in Commission Documents Nos. 6, 75, and 120. The films are enclosures to Commission Documents Nos. 595 and 596.

All of the information in the Commission Documents regarding the televisions films is available to the public, and there would appear to be no reason why Weisberg could not get prints from the film if he complies with the request of the National Archives that he provide written authorization from the television stations.

Mr. Weisberg's request regarding film exposed by an unknown person is too vague to research.

NOTE: The request received by the Department for information from FBI files is from Harold Weisberg, a man who has written several books critical of the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies, and other branches of the Government relating to the assassination investigation. His writings have contained inaccuracies, falsehoods, and deliberate slanting of facts to fit his purpose. He was one of ten employees fired by the State Department during 1947 because of suspicion of being a communist or having communistic sympathies. Later he was allowed to resign without prejudice, but was not restored to his former position. A check of Portland, Minneapolis, Dallas, and New Orleans files was necessary to be certain we can give the Department complete information on Weisberg's questions, which relate to possible cropping or editing of film rolls by the FBI. The films in which Weisberg is interested were taken at various times by private citizens and also some professional television film from New Orleans.

That set out above sets forth our response indicating the information Mr. Weisberg requests is available to him from other sources. Consequently, it is being suggested he seek this information from those sources.